

# Beetles that live with ants (Coleoptera, Carabidae, Pseudomorphini): A remarkable new genus and species from Guyane (French Guiana), *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* gen. n., sp. n.

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## Abstract

Among the extensive collections currently being made in Guyane (French Guiana), adults of a large and colorful species of pseudomorphine were encountered. The adults present, for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, elytra with a marked color pattern, and in addition a size considerably beyond that of the rest of the members of all other known genera in the Western Hemisphere. Both of these attributes, however, are well known in the Australian pseudomorphine fauna. This new species is described and illustrated and a revised key to the Western Hemisphere genera is included. The type locality of *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* gen. n., sp. n. is Guyane, Risquetout, PK20, 4.916°N, 52.516°W, 12m altitude.

## Resumen

Entre las colecciones extensivas que actualmente se están conduciendo en Guyane (Guyana Francesa), los adultos de las especies grandes y coloridas de pseudomorfinos fueron encontrados. Los adultos presentan, por primera vez en el hemisferio occidental, élitros con un patrón colorido marcado, además de un tamaño mucho mayor que el resto de los miembros de todos los otros géneros en el hemisferio occidental. Ambos atributos, sin embargo, se conocen bastante bien en la fauna pseudomorquina de Australia. Esta nueva especie se describe e ilustra y una clave revisada para los géneros del hemisferio occidental se incluye. La localidad tipo de *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* gen. n., sp. n. es Guyane, Risquetout, PK20, 4.916°N, 52.516°W, altitud de 12m.



**Keywords**

False-form beetles, identification key, distribution, male genitalia, female ovipositor, Hymenoptera: Formicidae

**Palabras clave**

Carábidos atípicos, clave de identificación, distribución, genitalia de macho, ovipositor de hembra, Hymenoptera: Formicidae

**Introduction**

Surprising taxa of Carabidae continue to surface as collections from remote places and new habitats are explored (e.g., Erwin 2000, 2004; Erwin and Geraci 2008). Another such taxon has been discovered in various parts of Guyane during ongoing biotic inventories in reserved areas of Guyane and exploration of that country's insect biodiversity by The Entomological Society Antilles-Guyane (SEAG) (cf. Erwin et al. 2012). The species is remarkable because the adults (Fig. 1) present, for the first time in the Western Hemisphere, elytra with a marked color pattern, and in addition a size considerably beyond that of the rest of members of the other known genera in the Western Hemisphere. Both of these attributes, however, are well known in the Australian pseudomorphine fauna (Baehr 1992, 1997) and it is likely a greater variety of color forms will be found in the future in South America.

**Specimens and methods**

Included in this study are a total of 4 specimens from other institutions and private collections (Appendix 1). “Methods and species concepts follow those previously described (Ball 1959; Erwin and Kavanaugh 1981; Kavanaugh and Erwin 1991). The species validation and diagnosis format follows as closely as possible that suggested in Erwin and Johnson (2000). Measurements of length (ABL, SBL) and width (TW) follow those of Ball (1972) and Kavanaugh (1979): ABL (apparent body length), measured from apex of labrum to apex of the abdomen; SBL (standardized body length), equals the sum of the lengths of the head (measured from apex of clypeus to a point on midline at level of the posterior edge of compound eyes), PL (pronotal length), measured from apical to basal margin along midline, and LE (elytron length), measured from apex of scutellum to apex of the longer elytron; and TW (total width), measured across both elytra at their widest point with suture closed.”

“Habitus and attribute images of the adult beetles portray most of the character states referred to in the key provided. Male and female genitalic presentations are standard for descriptive taxonomy of carabid beetles, and in this case are digital photo-illustrations (Erwin 2011). The images of the adult and its parts were made with a Visionary Digital™ high resolution imaging system. Figure captions include an ADP number, which is a unique identification number for the specimen that was illustrated



or imaged and links the specimen and associated illustrations and/or image to additional information in electronic databases at the NMNH.”

“Geographical data are presented based on all known specimens of each species available at the time of manuscript preparation. Georeferences have been determined from locality information provided on specimen labels. Latitude and longitude are reported in decimal degrees. A distribution map is provided for the species [Fig. 5]. Here, an English vernacular name is proposed, as vernacular names are becoming increasingly needed in conservation and/or agricultural and forestry applications, as well as for the Encyclopedia of Life ([www.eol.org](http://www.eol.org)),” (Erwin and Amundson in press).

## Accounts of taxa

### Western Hemisphere genera of Pseudomorphini Newman 1842

*Guyanemorpha* Erwin, gen. n. Guyane (French Guiana)

*Manumorpha* Erwin & Geraci, 2008. Brazil, Ecuador, Guyane, Perú

*Notopseudomorpha* (Baehr, 1997). Middle and South America

*Pseudomorpha* (s. str.) Kirby, 1825. USA south to Argentina (incl. Caribbean islands)

*Samiriamorpha* Erwin & Geraci, 2008. Perú

*Tuxtlamorpha* Erwin & Geraci, 2008. México, Honduras

*Yasunimorpha* Erwin & Geraci, 2008. Ecuador

### Key to the Western Hemisphere genera of Pseudomorphini Newman 1842

- |       |  |   |
|-------|--|---|
| 1     | Mouthparts not visible in dorsal aspect. Preocular lobe absent.....  | 2   |
| 1'    | Mouthparts visible in dorsal aspect. Preocular lobe present.....   | 3   |
| 2(1)  | Dorsal surface glabrous, markedly shiny... <b><i>Notopseudomorpha</i> (Baehr, 1997)</b>  |   |
| 2'    | Dorsal surface finely setiferous, not shiny.....   |   |
|       | ..... <b><i>Samiriamorpha</i> Erwin &amp; Geraci, 2008</b>   |   |
| 3(1') | Elytron with only scutellar and umbilicate setae; with elytra markedly tapered to apex.....  | 4   |
| 3'    | Elytron multisetiferous; body form rather broad and subdepressed with elytra not or barely tapered to broadly round apex .....   | 5   |
| 4(3') | Body form narrow, somewhat cylindrical .....   |   |
|       | ..... <b><i>Yasunimorpha</i> Erwin &amp; Geraci, 2008</b>  |   |
| 4'    | Body form very broad, not cylindrical.....   | <b><i>Guyanemorpha</i> gen. n.</b>                |
| 5(3)  | Dorsal surface with dense vestiture, of very long thick erect setae equal in length at least to basal 4 antennomeres, but no pubescence; body form subconvex, elytra tapered posteriorly .....                               | <b><i>Manumorpha</i> Erwin &amp; Geraci, 2008</b> |
| 5'    | Dorsal surface with sparse or no long vestiture, longer setae equal in length only to at most basal 3 antennomeres, also usually with short pubescence; body form subconvex, elytra slightly tapered posteriorly or not..... | 6   |



- 6(5') Major setae of dorsal surface erect or slightly curved posteriorly.....  
 ..... *Pseudomorpha* Kirby, 1825
- 6' Major setae of elytra posteriorly directed and markedly decumbent .....  
 ..... *Tuxtlamorpha* Erwin & Geraci, 2008

### **Pseudomorphini Newman, 1842**

<http://species-id.net/wiki/Pseudomorphini>

Pseudomorphini Newman, 1842:365 (as Pseudomorphites)

**Proposed english vernacular name.** False-form beetles.

**Taxonomy.** Stable at the generic level.

**Classification.** According to Ober and Maddison (2008), Pseudomorphini appears as a branch of the higher Carabidae and associated with Graphipterini and Orthogonini; according to Erwin and Geraci (2008), the adelphotaxon is the tribe Orthogonini. All three tribes are associated in some way with ants or termites. Male genitalia of pseudomorphines have a bonnet-shaped phallobase as in the lebiomorphs, yet their accompanying parameres are large and nearly symmetrical (and in some species the parameres are sparsely setiferous), as in some primitive lineages of the family. Many known lineages of Pseudomorphini have been so highly selected for life with ants (and possibly termites) that external structures do not help much in discovering more normal carabid relatives (cf. Erwin and Amundson, in press).

**Taxonomy references.** Baehr (1992, 1997); Erwin and Amundson (in press); Erwin and Geraci (2008); Notman (1925), Ogueta (1967).

**Larval references.** Erwin (1981); Lenko (1972); Liebherr and Kavanaugh (1985), Moore (1964, 1974, 1983).

### ***Guyanemorpha* Erwin, gen. n.**

<http://zoobank.org/66A2E5B7-0831-4E1E-8AD2-ECE683F0AD8D>

<http://species-id.net/wiki/Guyanemorpha>

**Type species.** *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* Erwin, sp. n.

**Proposed english vernacular generic name.** Guyane False-form beetles

**Adelphotaxon.** Probably *Notopseudomorpha* (Baehr, 1997) (see Erwin and Geraci 2008 for phylogeny).

**Description. Head** (Fig. 2) without supraorbital setigerous punctures, nor any accessory setae; frontal impressions absent. Labrum barely visible with anterior margin shallowly emarginate, quadrisetose; clypeus markedly wide, nearly obscured in dorsal aspect by protruding frons, with obtuse setiferous lateral corners. Eyes slightly convex; small gena with numerous stout setae. Antenna short, just reaching anterior coxa in repose; antennomeres 3-9 slightly wider than 1-3, and appearing slightly flattened. Mandible markedly flattened with a very short and acute apex; outer margin ventral of the scrobe without short



stout setae. Maxillary palpi markedly short, 3-segmented, palpomeres slightly depressed, palpomere 3 truncate apically. Labial palpus with short bisetose palpomere 2; palpomere 3 markedly securiform and robust, its distal margin mostly membranous with sensory organs.

**Prothorax.** Pronotum (Fig. 1) much wider than head, transverse, with narrowly beaded margins; without a pair of setigerous punctures each side, apical, lateral and posterior margins with fringe of short stout setae; hind angles obtuse, broadly rounded. Prosternal process unisetiferous subapically, intercoxal process feebly beaded.

**Pterothorax.** Metepisternum elongate and markedly narrowed posteriorly, the outer margin about 2 times greater in length than the anterior margin, posterior margin about 0.2 times anterior margin.

**Elytra.** Elytron (Fig. 1) tapered, markedly narrower apically, width of elytra about equal to that of pronotum at widest point, apical margin truncate with evenly rounded humerus, interneurs and intervals effaced; parascutellar stria absent, scutellum hidden, parascutellar puncture present, marked; without fixed discal setae, surface glabrous. Lateral marginal (umbilical) series of 10 setae, arrayed throughout and widely spaced; lateral margin with fringe of short stout setae.

**Hind wings.** Macropterous. Venation (Fig. 3).

**Legs.** Short and depressed, femur posteriorly channeled for reception of tibia in repose; antennal comb notch very shallow; tibial spurs normal; anterior tarsi of male with tarsomeres 2–4 dilated slightly, ventrally each with two laterally placed rows of adhesive articulo-setae.

**Abdomen.** Abdominal sterna III–VII with patches of short setae and each of IV–VII with a single row of erect ambulatory setae numbering 2 to 8 setae; V and VI in male each with dense row of yellowish robust setae separated medially.

**Male genitalia** (Fig. 4). Phallobase hooded with small orifice, dorsum not crested; phallosaft arched throughout its length, diameter sub-rounded to somewhat depressed dorso-ventrally; phalloapex produced, sharp, rounded, markedly depressed dorso-ventrally; endophallus orifice elongate, endophallus with dense patches of microtrichia. Parameres (C) moderately short compared to those of genus *Pseudomorpha*, nearly equal in length, left slightly longer and much broader than right, each apically glabrous. Ring sclerite (E) normal for family.

**Female ovipositor and genital tract** (Fig. 1). Gonocoxite 2 falcate, base about as long as blade, latter relatively short, pointed distally; margins without ensiform setae; with short preapical nematiform seta.

***Guyanemorpha spectabilis* Erwin, sp. n.**

<http://zoobank.org/B86F564C-10FD-43CD-B257-DDE8425CF0D7>

[http://species-id.net/wiki/Guyanemorpha\\_spectabilis](http://species-id.net/wiki/Guyanemorpha_spectabilis)

Figures 1–5

**Holotype.** Guyane (French Guiana): Risquetout, PK20, 4.916°N, 52.516°W, 12m, 13 December 2010 (SEAG)(NMNH, held in trust, see below: ADP132101, female). Paratypes are listed below under other specimens examined.





**Figure 1.** *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* sp. n., female holotype, ADP132101; Risquetout, PK20, Guyane. Habitus and female genital tract glued to card, dorsal aspect, ABL = 13.2mm.

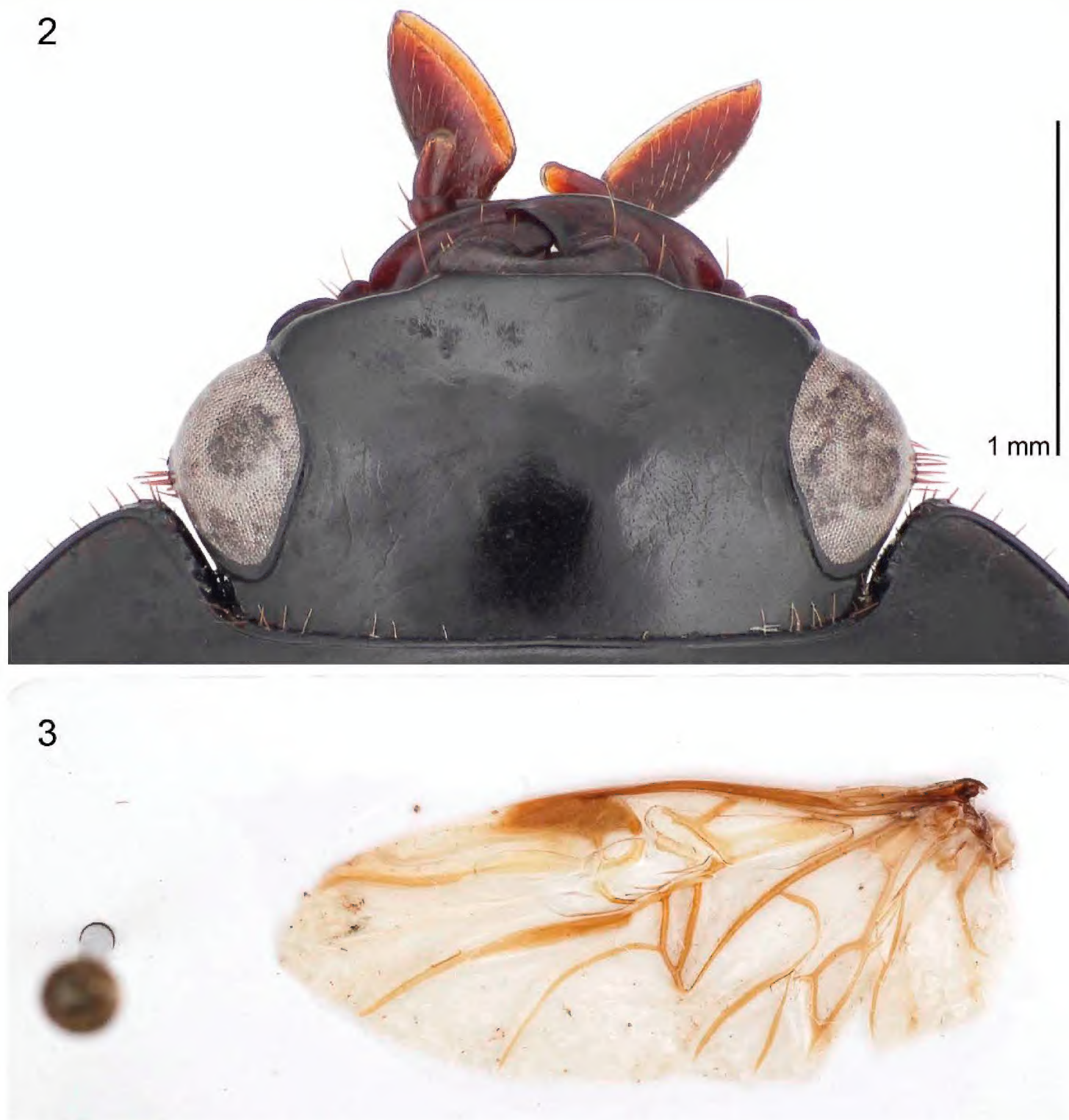
**Derivation of specific epithet.** The epithet “*spectabilis*” is a Latin adjective describing the very large and colorful beetle species.

**Proposed english vernacular name.** Spectacular Guyane False-form beetle.

**Diagnosis.** With the attributes of the genus as described above and color black and rufous with elytral spots (Fig. 1), color tone of head and pronotum uniform black; form broad and stout with tapered elytra; head with preapical lobe prominent but hidden in dorsal aspect beneath the frons, about 2/3 the length of the anterior margin of eye; pronotum (Fig. 1) coequal at base to elytra across humeri; elytron markedly tapered from humerus to narrower truncated apex and without interneurs or intervals, surface glabrous except parascutellar seta and 8 umbilicate setae near lateral margin.

**Description.** (Figs 1, 2, 3, 4; Appendix 3). Size: Very large for a Western Hemisphere species, ABL = 13.18 to 13.51 mm, SBL = 11.05 to 12.18 mm, TW = 6.36 to 6.86 mm.





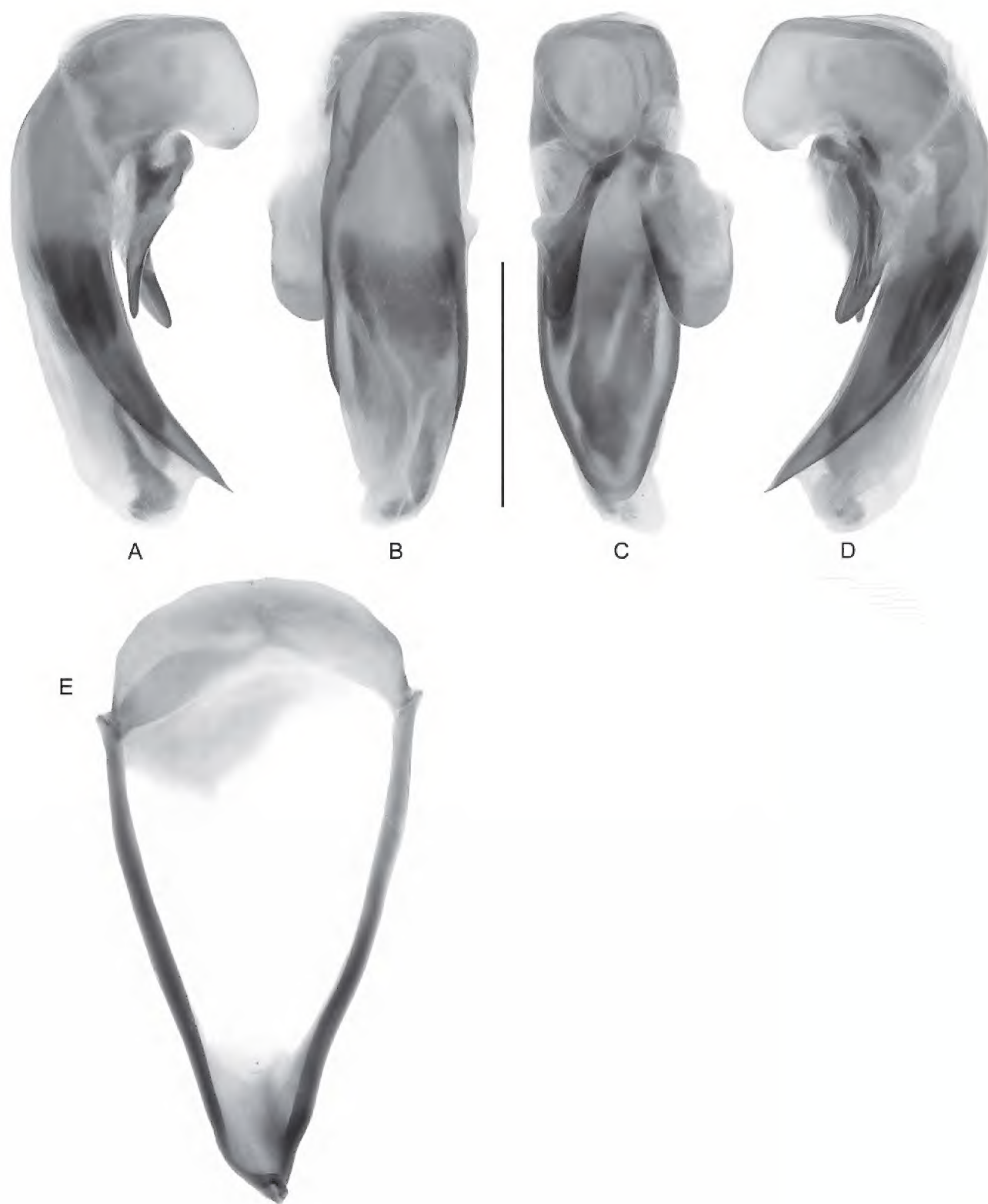
**Figure 2–3.** **2** *Guyanemorphia spectabilis* sp. n., female holotype, ADP132101; Risquetout, PK20, Guyane. Head, dorsal planar aspect **3** *Guyanemorphia spectabilis* sp. n., female paratype, ADP132105; Nouragues, Saut Pararé, Guyane. Left flight wing, dorsal aspect.

Preocular lobe-eye ratio (L/L): 0.49 to 0.54. Pronotum ratio (L/W): 1.99 to 2.16. Pronotum ratio (W/L): 2.20 to 2.29. As described for genus above and the diagnosis.

**Dispersal potential.** These beetles are macropterous and have been recorded from flight intercept traps (FITs), hence fully capable of flight; they are likely swift and agile runners as other species in the Tribe. Accordingly, this species may be expected to be more broadly distributed across a wider geographical range than current records indicate.

**Way of life.** Adults of other pseudomorphae in the Western Hemisphere are found in ant nests and the surrounding vicinity and possibly in termite nests (Ogueta 1967); female adults of species of *Pseudomorpha* are ovoviviparous (Liebherr and Ka-



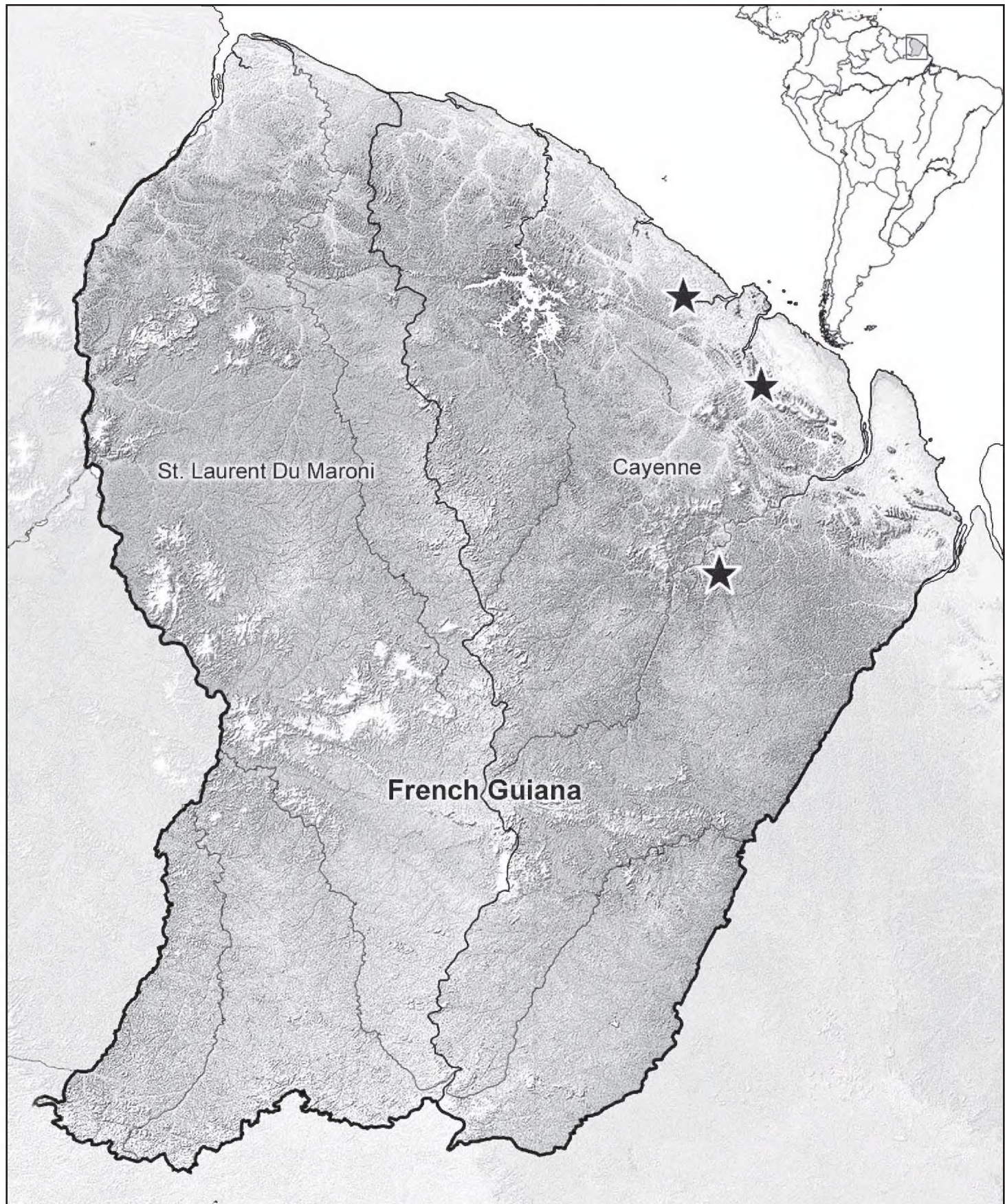


**Figure 4.** *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* sp. n., male paratype, ADP132103; Risquetout, PK20, Guyane. Male genitalia, median lobe and parameres labeled as in repose in male **A** ventral aspect **B** right lateral aspect **C** left lateral aspect **D** dorsal aspect.

vanaugh 1985); *Pseudomorpha* and *Notopseudomorpha* larvae are ant nestinquilines (Erwin 1981, Lenko 1972). Members of *G. spectabilis* occur at lowland rainforest sites and most likely live with ants. They have been found in July and December.

**Other specimens examined. Guyane:** Réserve Trésor, 4.610°N, 52.279°W, 225m, 11 July 2009 (S. Brule)(BMNH, ADP124772, male paratype); Risquetout, PK20, 4.916°N, 52.516°W, 12m, 13 December 2010 (J.L. Giuglaris) (MNHP: ADP132103); Nouragues, Saut Pararé, 4.02°N, 52.41°W, 51m, 14 July 2010 (SEAG) (MNHP, ADP132105, female paratype).





**Figure 5.** Distribution dot map for known localities of *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* sp. n.

**Geographic distribution.** (Fig. 5). This species is currently known only from Guyane.

**Note.** The holotype is currently held in trust at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC until the planned Natural History Museum of Guyane is established, and at that time the specimen will be transferred there. See details of SEAG carabid collections in Erwin et al. 2012.



## Concluding statement

Adults of *Guyanemorpha* share attributes with those of both *Notopseudomorpha* (Baehr) and *Yasunimorpha* Erwin & Geraci. This surprising large and colorful pseudomorphine came as a shock to the author, as all other species of the Tribe in the Western Hemisphere are quite dull fulvous, rufous, or black with no, or little, color contrast on the dorsal surface. Since little in the way of life information is available for the four specimens reported herein except seasonality of adult activity and lowland habitation, only speculation based on fogging samples in Perú and Ecuador can add much to this conclusion. “The pseudomorphines are a very interesting evolutionary off-shoot of the normal carabid morphotype in both form and function and are only just now beginning to be understood in North America. The fact that species of related genera in South America are living with arboreal ants will make learning about them far more difficult. Insecticidal fogging gets adults of these species, but only tearing apart arboreal *Azteca* ant nests while suspended in a tree will produce their larvae, and that is not for carabidologists faint of heart.” Erwin and Amundson (in press).

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## Appendix I

Institutions and personnel who loaned specimens for this revision.

- BMNH** Maxwell V. L. Barclay, Curator and Collection Manager, Entomology: Coleoptera & Hemiptera, Department of Life Sciences, Natural History Museum, London SW7 5BD
- SEAG** S. Brule, J.L. Giuglaris, The Entomological Society Antilles-Guyane, stephanebrule973@hotmail.fr

## Appendix 2

Errata: In Erwin and Geraci (2008), Figure captions 13 and 14 are reversed. Fig 13 is *Notopseudomorpha* sp., Costa Rica, and fig. 14 is *Pseudomorpha excrucians* Kirby.



## Appendix 3

**Table 1.** Measurements and ratios for *Guyanemorpha spectabilis* sp. n., all measurements are in millimeters.

Total length (sbl)					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	12.079–12.135	12.107	2	11.053–12.185	11.844
Maximum width (tw)					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	6.356–6.378	6.367	2	6.41–6.864	6.637
W of head/w of left elytron					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	1.041–1.069	1.055	2	0.980–0.991	0.986
Pronotum: width (at widest part)/length					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	2.193–2.220	2.207	2	2.253–2.327	2.29
Length of pronotum / length of head					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	1.959–2.027	1.993	2	2.040–2.285	2.163
Apparent body length (abl)					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	13.510–14.480	13.995	2	13.180–14.180	13.68
Pre-ocular length / eye length					
Males			Females		
N	Range	Mean	N	Range	Mean
2	0.435–0.554	0.494	2	0.520–0.551	0.535